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Circular: 2024HOC0419MR

Date: 07 November 2024

To: All Members

Dear Brother/Sister

Age Discrimination Remedy, Matthews Second Options Exercise FAQs & Opt-out Contingent Decision Guidance

Please find links below to the updated frequently asked questions in relation to age discrimination remedy and the Matthews second options exercise.

These FAQs are produced by the Scheme Advisory Boards or their equivalent in the devolved administrations. The Fire Brigades Union National Officer, holder of the Pensions remit, sits on each of these boards along with the relevant Executive Council members. The Boards produce and update information into all fire and rescue service pensions matters on a regular basis. These FAQs, and links to information, provide the answers to most pensions related questions currently being raised and are a valuable and extensive resource for members and officials.

England & Wales

<https://fpsmember.org/remedy/frequently-asked-questions-faqs>

<https://fpsmember.org/matthews-remedy/matthews-remedy-faqs>

Scotland

<https://pensions.gov.scot/firefighters#FirefightersRemedyHub>

<https://pensions.gov.scot/firefighters#Matthews2ndOptionCase>

Northern Ireland

<https://hscpensions.hscni.net/nifrs-pension-scheme/mccloud-judgement-2015/>

<https://hscpensions.hscni.net/nifrs-pension-scheme/nifrs-pension-members/schemes/modified-scheme-2007-retained-firefighters/matthews-second-options-exercise/>

The Matthews second options exercise HSC pensions website is currently being updated to, at the request of the FBU, include a Matthews FAQ tab.

Opt-out contingent decision guidance

Members who opted out and wish to make a contingent decision claim will be required to provide evidence as to why they opted out. A Contingent Decision is a decision taken by a member, relating to their membership of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (FPS), that would have been different had it not been for the discrimination identified by the courts. The guidance attached at page 4 provides some examples of evidence members would need to submit in order for their claim to be considered, the link to the claim form is also contained within the document.

<https://fpsmember.org/remedy/contingent-decisions>

Yours in solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Rowe', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Rowe
National Officer

MR/am